

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising:
 - a lens for reading the image; and
 - a plurality of light sources staggered to a predetermined circular arc that surrounds the lens.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a support board which supports said plurality of light sources, and said plurality of light sources are supported at predetermined angles with respect to a normal from the support board.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a support board which supports said plurality of light sources, some light sources of said plurality of light sources are supported at predetermined angles with respect to a normal from the support board to be tilted toward an inside of the circular arc, and remaining light sources of said plurality of light sources are supported at predetermined angles with respect to the normal from the support board to be tilted toward an outside of the circular arc.
4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a diffusion cover to cover said plurality of light sources and diffuse light beams radiated from said plurality of light sources.
5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the

diffusion cover includes a diffusion sheet that is arranged to oppose said plurality of light sources.

6. An apparatus comprising:

a lens for reading the image; and

5 a first plurality of light sources which are located on a first circular arc that surrounds the lens, and

10 a second plurality of light sources which are located on a second circular arc that has the same center as that of the first circular arc and a radius larger than that of the first circular arc.

15 7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first plurality of light sources located on the first circular arc are located at positions separated from radii drawn from said second plurality of light sources located on the second circular arc.

20 8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the apparatus comprises a support board which supports said first and second plurality of light sources located on the first and second circular arcs,

25 said first plurality of light sources located on the first circular arc are supported at predetermined angles with respect to a normal from the support board to be tilted toward an inside of the circular arc, and

said second plurality of light sources located on the second circular arc are supported at predetermined angles with respect to the normal from the support

board to be tilted toward an outside of the circular arc.

9. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the apparatus comprises a diffusion cover to cover said first and second plurality of light sources and diffuse light beams radiated from said first and second plurality of light sources.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the diffusion cover includes a diffusion sheet that is arranged to oppose said first and second plurality of light sources.